

Community Service Project Ideas

Below are some project ideas which can be organized by individuals. We encourage creativity and if you have an idea for a project you don't see listed below, please feel free to contact volunteer services at ARF to let us know what you're thinking. Thank you for your interest in helping ARF's programs and animals!

Collect gas cards

ARF uses a lot of gas rescuing animals, delivering pet food to FoodShare recipients, and going out to mobile adoption sites. Chevron gas cards are very useful because the Chevron station is so close to ARF. Safeway gives Arco gas cards to customers when they spend a certain amount and use their Safeway Club Card. Collect cards from your own Safeway trips and from friends, coworkers, and neighbors and donate them to ARF. Providing gas for ARF vehicles can go a long way.

Collect towels

Any size towel is appreciated. The towels we use/need the most are bath/beach-size towels, but hand towels and wash cloths are appreciated as well. Each of the cats in the back of our facility has a bath/beach towel which is changed everyday. This provides them with some warmth and comfort in their cage. We also use the larger towels for drying off the dogs after a bath.

Collect Blankets

Since many ARF animals are sick when they arrive at the facility, they often need a blanket to help keep them warm. Even our healthy animals like to snuggle once in a while. Any size blanket is appreciated, as long as it does not have any electrical cords in it. Blankets must be machine washable. Other bedding, such as flat sheets and comforters are also useful.

Collect Dog/Cat food

We have a FoodShare Program which provides dog and cat food to low-income members of Contra Costa County, California. Any sort of dog or cat food is accepted, although kitten and puppy food is not preferred as there are not many requests for it. ARF accepts both cans and bags of food, wet and dry food. Food **MUST** be new and **SEALED** to be accepted.

Collect Treats

ARF is the temporary home for a lot of dogs, which means lots of treats are required. Most treats are cut into bite-sized pieces, so the softer the treats, the better (the dogs love Beggin' Strips). ARF does not use rawhide, chew sticks, pigs' ears, or similar treats because the dogs must be supervised 100 percent of the time with those types of treats. ARF cats like treats, too! Any sort of cat treats are appreciated, along with cat nip or cat grass. Packages of treats **MUST** be **SEALED** to be accepted. ARF will not accept homemade treats.

Collect Toys

ARF animals love getting new toys, and with so many animals coming through the shelter, they could always use more. For dogs, Nylabone products are the best for durability reasons. ARF also needs Jolly-Balls (small size) and rope toys. Plush toys are welcome as long as there are not plastic parts, such as eyes or noses. Plush toys containing battery packs or any sort of plastic motors inside will not be accepted for safety reasons. ARF cats would appreciate balls, small mice, and other cat toys, as long as the toy does not have any feathers on it.

Collect Dog/Cat Beds

All beds MUST be machine-washable. Fleece beds without foam or a pillow inside are preferred; something simple, one piece that can be easily thrown in the washing machine. Because all ARF animals have beds, they get worn down rather quickly and ARF always needs new ones.

Dog Wash

Organize a dog wash in your neighborhood, at school, or even at a gas station. Advertise in the area around the event and have each customer make a donation for having their dog washed. You can then donate the proceeds to ARF. If you tell ARF about it we may be able to bring our personal dogs for washing as well.

Thrift Store Collections

ARF's Thrift Store proceeds go to ARF Emergency Medical Fund® (EMF) which provides much needed veterinary care for low-income residents of Contra Costa County, California. The Thrift Store is always looking for donations, so ask your friends, family, and neighbors to clean out their closets! Collect gently used clothing, jewelry, house wares, etc. and donate the goods to the Thrift Store.

Penny Drive

It can be called Pennies for Puppies or Pennies for Pets. If you make a *mile of pennies* your goal, you can put a mile long piece of removable tape around your school campus or other designated site. After you have collected all of your pennies, you can place them side by side on the tape. One mile of pennies equals \$845 or 84,480 pennies. You can accept other coins as well and adjust your goal accordingly. You can also circulate a jar once a day for a few weeks in your office or classroom after lunch to collect the leftover lunch change. It's also effective to make it a competition between classes/departments.

Other Items Needed

The items listed below are supplies that the different departments have requested as they are in short supply here at ARF. You may want to take up a donation jar or use the money from a coin/penny drive to purchase the items below. If you have questions about any of them, please feel free to contact ARF for clarification.

- Natural Balance logs (any flavor)
- Sets of measuring cups
- Crystal cat litter
- Hot water bottles to keep animals warm after surgery
- Distilled water to clean surgical packs in the veterinary clinic
- 70% Isopropyl alcohol
- Liquid hand soap

If interested in one of these projects, please contact Jenn at jsuzuki@arf.net for scheduling.